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## Set an Drift

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# SET AND DRIFT

## New Chief of Staff Assigned to Naval War College



Rear Admiral Fred Groch Bennett, U.S. Navy, reporting from a Navy Department post as Director, Navy Program Planning, assumed duties as Chief of Staff, Naval War College in August 1969.

Admiral Bennett was born in 1915 and was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1936 and from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1944 with the degree of Master of Science. He graduated from the Naval War College in 1955.

His duty assignments afloat include the *USS Maryland* on which ship he was serving at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He has also served as Gunnery Officer, *USS Topeka*; Staff Gunnery Officer, Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet; Commanding Officer, *USS Harwood*; Staff, Commander Destroyer Division Eighty Two; Commanding Officer, *USS Grand Canyon*; Commanding

Officer, *USS Newport News*; and Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Eight.

Admiral Bennett's shore assignments have included duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; Engineering Officer, Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D.C.; Assistant Director of Budget and Reports, Office of the Navy Comptroller and in 1963 in the rank of Rear Admiral, he was awarded the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious service" in the post of Director of Budget and Reports. Admiral Bennett has also served as Director of the General Planning and Programming Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. In 1968 the President of the United States appointed him Vice Admiral and Director, Navy Program Planning. For service in that capacity he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal this past July.

**Correspondence Courses.** In the latter pages of this issue there is description of the Naval War College correspondence courses followed by a subscription tear-out card—a convenient method for enrolling in one of these challenging studies.

The value of these courses rests largely on the professional needs of the individual. Quoted below are comments made by students who have completed the International Relations course, and



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readers contemplating enrollment should find them of interest.

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This course have given me an insight into a field or area of study that I feel is vital to the naval officer in command today. I do not mean to imply that I have a deep understanding of international relations. I mean that I have an appreciation for the many sides to problems in international relations; and further, that naval officers need to appreciate and be knowledgeable in international relations so as to fully understand far-reaching consequences individual ship actions can have on national policies and actions. I feel that I am now better prepared to appreciate the problems involving our national policies, in the decision-making process aboard ships in situations such as encounters with Soviet ships involving near collisions, et cetera.

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I have acquired knowledge and understanding that I could not have acquired without the assistance of the Naval War College and its dedicated staff. Studying this course is far more effective than random reading. Preparation of the written assignments is especially valuable. Only when the student begins to write his thoughts does he discover the true extent of his knowledge and understanding. The review comments by the staff are very helpful to the student. Without these, the student would have no way of evaluating his effort. I have learned a great deal by reading these comments and reflecting on

them as I continued my study. This course provides an excellent method for enhancing an officer's professional development and should be considered mandatory for all senior officers. Junior officers should be encouraged and permitted to study this course.

**Senior Officer Executive Management Course.** From 28 July to 8 August 1969, some 30 newly selected Navy rear admirals, Marine corps brigadier generals, and other selectees participated in the second annual Senior Officer Executive Management Course conducted by the Naval War College.

The 3-week, course designed to provide these senior officer students with a foundation in modern concepts and theories of management, covered the areas of behavioral sciences, managerial planning and control, national and labor economics, planning, programming, budgeting, and systems analysis.

The major portion of the instruction was provided by professors from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management, who lent their assistance in setting up the course 18 months ago. Leading specialists from the Navy, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and other governmental agencies participated as lecturers during the management course.

Professor Zenon S. Zannetos of the Alfred P. Sloan School of Management was chairman of the advisory group charged with the development of the course. He was assisted by Professor Edward B. Roberts, who holds the Naval War College's James V. Forrestal Chair of Military Management, and by Professor Charles O. Myers, the MIT Sloan Fellows Professor of Management.

Comdr. Ian E.M. Donovan, USN, was the military director of the course. He is on the staff of the War College's School of Naval Command and Staff.